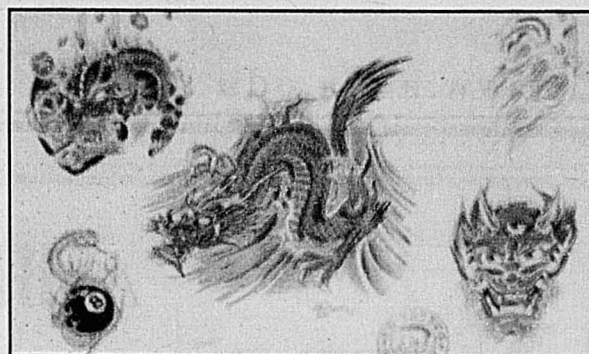


See inside for
Is a tattoo right
for you?



Competing for the crown

Avila graduate named Miss Kansas

Diane Euston

Staff Writer

On Dec. 21, Avila alumna Alicia Cabrera quickly transformed from Miss Leawood into Miss Kansas 2003 when she was announced as the title winner in Wichita, Kan.. The next month will mold the 23-year-old and her bright future as she has been passed the crown of possibilities

"This has been the opportunity of a lifetime," Cabrera said with a smile. "I'm just happy and healthy."

After winning the title of Miss Leawood, Cabrera was one of 25 women chosen from across the state to compete for the Miss Kansas title.

"I wanted the judges at the state competition to pick someone with a healthy look, which I work very hard to maintain," Cabrera said. "But, I couldn't help but think, 'What am I doing? I'm out of my league!'"

Cabrera is no stranger to the Miss Kansas pageant, having competed in the event two other times before.

"I guess you can say the third time's a charm," Cabrera said.

Cabrera now carries the responsibility of representing the state of Kansas in San Antonio. at the Miss USA pageant, which will be broadcast live on NBC on March 24.

The Miss USA pageant consists of

interview, swimsuit and evening gown categories.

"I have to prepare for every aspect of the pageant daily," Cabrera said. "The pageant has taken up most of my time."

Cabrera's schedule does not allow for much down time.

"My schedule is just crazy right now, but I've always been a high-strung person," Cabrera said.

In addition to working three days a week, Cabrera works out twice daily, reads, practices interview questions with her coach, goes to various dress fittings, attends rehearsal and watches the news.

"It's really important that I keep up with what is going on around the world.

"I try very hard to make time for myself. I try to go home every Sunday to have dinner with my family," Cabrera said. "My family inspires me."

Family is a very important aspect in Cabrera's life. She was raised by her grandmother and her father, Leo, who passed away when she was 21 years old.

"Alicia overcame so much to graduate and go on to what she has now accomplished," Charlene Gould,

director and associate professor of theater, said.

"The pageant is something my dad and I talked about along with studying abroad. I'm doing this for him along with my grandma."

Many who have interacted with the new Miss Kansas are not surprised by her recent success.

"Alicia is just as beautiful inside as she is out," Gould said. "I don't know anyone at Avila who didn't love Alicia."

Growing up in Topeka, Kan., Cabrera moved to Kansas City to attend the school she fell in love with on her first visit.

"I came to Avila initially to audition for a theater scholarship," Cabrera said.

After meeting with some of the theater students, Cabrera was sure where



E. Barnes

Alumna Alicia Cabrera was named Miss Kansas 2003.

she was going to attend her freshman year. Cabrera smiled and shrugged with enthusiasm.

See Miss Kansas, p.3

Avila Steer Dinner is major fundraiser for student scholarships

Shannon Degitz

News Editor

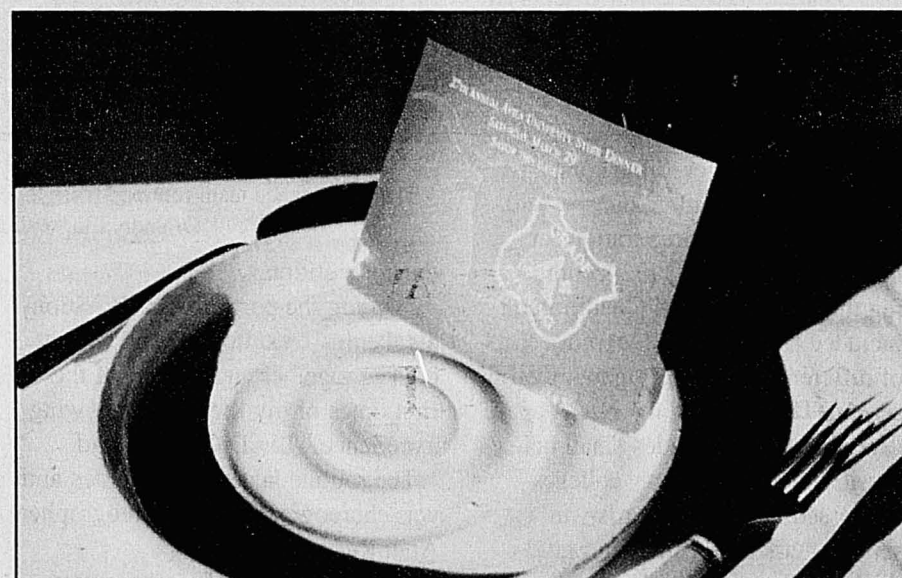
The annual Steer Dinner has become Avila's most important annual fund-raising event.

The Steer Dinner offers an impressive history and an even more impressive opportunity for students.

This year the Steer Dinner will be held on March 29 at the Fairmont Hotel in Kansas City. All of Avila is invited to participate by volunteering or by purchasing a dinner.

"The Steer Dinner raises money for student scholarships and other campus needs. It is vital to create awareness throughout the campus as to what the Steer Dinner is and how important it is to Avila," Serena Aernie, director of development, said.

"The Steer Dinner is important because it not only raises money for student scholarships but it also positions Avila as a valuable community resource providing quality educa-



Avila Steer Dinner offers a grade A+ evening.

E. Barnes

tion," Linda Morris Shaffer, Avila alumna, said.

It is the 27th annual Steer Dinner. The Dinner started as a dinner/auction for Avila. In 1977, a number of Avila's good friends purchased the American

Royal Grand Champion Steer, named "Jimmie C," and donated it to Avila to see if it could make Avila some money. Not long after that, Avila hosted the first Steer Dinner on campus. The Grand Champion steer was sold

to the highest bidders for \$15,000 and the Steer Dinner and Auction celebration was born.

Over the years the Steer Dinner has raised over \$1.5 million and last year it grossed \$323,000, which was a \$75,000 increase from last year. This year the goal is set at \$325,000.

"Alums and friends of Avila and the community, as well as faculty and staff are all invited to this wonderful gala.

"The dinner raises awareness of Avila students and other campus needs. That is our main objective," Aernie said. "Avila is not Avila without students. The more we educate the community about Avila, the more valuable their degrees are and the better jobs they can get and it also helps Avila attract students. It is a great way to secure active alums for the future. If students know the importance of

See Steer Dinner, p.3

News Briefs

Kristen Engebreston and Lauren Chiodo were selected to perform in the Missouri All-Collegiate Choir during the Missouri Music Educators Conference, Jan. 22-25, 2003. They were among 175 singers from 31 colleges and universities. They also performed the American premier of a work by the American composer Stephen Paulus, "Whitman's Dream," with the text by the American poet Walt Whitman.

Avila's Community Relations Department received five awards of excellence at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The department received four silver and one bronze award in graphic design and advertising. More than 175 colleges and universities participated in the event.

Psychology major Kim Monden received one of four National Psi Chi Research Awards. She will present her research on body image in adolescent males at the American Association convention in Toronto, Canada in August. She will also be presenting on Avila Student Scholars Day.

February is career month and is filled with many exciting events, such as Writing an effective resume, practice interviews, networking and interview day.

Avila alumna Erica Berg has decided to enter the order of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

Celebrate Black History Month!

Avila Idol - Mon. Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. in the Eagle's Nest.
Poetry Night - Tues. Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Eagle's Nest.
Soul Food Day - Wed. Feb. 19 in Marian Center Dining Hall.
Game Night - Thur. Feb. 20 8 p.m. to 11p.m. in the Eagle's Nest.
Black History Program - Sun. Feb 23 in Whitfield Conference Room

Avila cheerleaders place 13th at nationals

Alissa Nicole Solis
Staff Writer

After qualifying eighth for the 2003 college cheer and dance national competition, four members took 13th place out of 16 teams. The four were junior Heather Montes, sophomore Christy Arel, sophomore Natasha Collins, and freshman Cassie DeJongh.

This was the first time Avila University attended the competition.

"I'm extremely pleased with the girls, since it was our first time there. The competition was slightly overwhelming and the ability of us and the other teams has grown," cheer coach Jason Sack said.

Competing against larger school such as the University of Florida helped the women know more about what to expect next year.

"We didn't do as well as we would have liked to. We did learn a lot about the environment on what we have to do for next year. It really prepared us for the future. We are going to be great next year," Montes



Courtesy of Jason Sack

Avila cheerleaders attended the UDA National Competition in January.

said.

"We definitely made an impression. Between us and the dance team next year the competition will take us very

seriously," Sack said.

The actual competition lasted one minute and included nine to 10 stunts in a row.

"Once we got out on the floor our nervousness went away and we were just so excited," Collins said.

ESPN cameras were also present during competition.

"It blows you away when you step on the stage in front of 5,000 people and they all know about cheerleading, not like when we perform at basketball games," Sack said.

The entire experience was well worth the effort, according to the cheer squad.

"We had lots of fun and learned a lot about each other," Arel said.

"We did terrible in practice but landed the routine when we performed. Doing our hair, makeup and putting on our uniforms was the best part," Montes said. "Nationals helped us realize what a special bond we had with each other. We came together as a group and did great."

Avila dance team receives high honors at competition

Alissa Nicole Solis
Staff Writer

The Avila dance team brought home a trophy after placing third at Nationals. Twelve dancers performed and took third place out of 24 teams at the national championship of the College Cheer and Dance Competition in Orlando, Fla. on Jan. 11. The dance team said that all their hard work has paid off.

"I'm so thrilled and proud of the team for finishing as high as we did after seeing the incredible competition," Mandy Freeman, dancer, said.

The team began preparation for nationals in June of 2002, conditioning three days a week. Conditioning included technique and learning parts of different dances throughout the fall season. They entered the NAIA open division, which includes small universities and community colleges.

Dressed in black unitards with cat scratch marks and lined with gold rhinestones put on by the dancers, the team performed in front of 7,000 people and ESPN cameras.

"We had the best uniforms there," Cindy Freeman, head coach, said.

The best part of the experience for sophomore Jamie Guidicessi was the feeling she got out on the floor. New and exciting experiences happened at



Courtesy of Cindy Freeman

The Avila dance team returned from the College Cheer and Dance Competition in Orlando, Fla. with a third place trophy.

the competition.

"During the performance at nationals the thrill, excitement and energy clicked together and for one of the first times of my life I had a flowing experience," Liz DiGiramo said.

The routine lasted two minutes and was choreographed by choreographer Andi Ruch.

Parents and Avila fans were very supportive of the team.

"Most schools do not support their dance team. We are very fortunate that Avila does. I'm very proud of the team overcoming so many obstacles and adapting to different changes. It made it even more rewarding that we were able to do what we did," C. Freeman

said.

After the competition the dancers watched the Division One dance teams and went for more dancing at Pleasure Island and the MGM Grand. The MGM Grand closed to the public and threw a block party specifically for the competitors involved at nationals.

"The competition will hopefully air in March. It is scheduled to air on ESPN and ESPN2," M. Freeman said.

The dance team competed at the Heart of America Athletic Conference competition at Central Methodist College in Fayette, Mo. where they took first place.

Miss Kansas

Continued from p.1

"It's just like one big family here. I always thought I'd want to go to a big school and get away from home, but then I came here and my decision was made."

At first, Cabrera could not decide between a major in theater or nursing.

"I made up my mind when I came to Avila. There is just something about the theater department that attracted me, whether it's working on the stage or behind the scene," Cabrera said.

Gould noticed the accomplishments of Cabrera.

"Alicia was in almost every production her four years."

Cabrera's college experience at Avila began in the fall of 1997 and ended in May 2002 when she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in theater. During her time at the university, Cabrera received the Spirit of Avila award, the Theater Award and was a finalist for Avila's Aniston Award.

"Alicia was Avila's first study abroad student. She studied theater in Seville, Spain," Gould said. "She had several years of Spanish and coupled this with her study of theater."

Although Cabrera has to adapt to her hectic schedule recently, she still makes time every day to go to a one hour therapy session for her health condition.

"When I was 19, I found out I have multiple cognitive disease and Raynaud's disease," Cabrera said.

The rare disease causes the tissues in her body to fight against one another. The side effects include inflammation in the hands and loss of circulation to the feet. She has to practice techniques learned in therapy to control her condition.

Despite the attention, the new Miss Kansas tries to be true to herself.

"People that know me know I'm really down to earth," Cabrera said. "I didn't tell a lot of people that I was competing in the Miss Kansas pageant because I didn't want people to think that means I'm snobby."

Pageants such as the Miss USA and Miss America pageants have been criticized for the alleged questionable message they send to young women.

"Some people think pageants are degrading to women. Well, you know what? To me, the pageant shows women have confidence,"



Courtesy of Alicia Cabrera

Cabrera said. "I mean, if you can get up there on stage in front of millions of people in a swimsuit – and you can look good doing it ... if a woman can do that, she can do anything!"

Others feel pageants are just about appearance, money and a body.

"Some people think pageants are political and you have to have money, be skinny, pretty and everything like that. By all means, I'm not rich at all. And, I know I'm not perfect," Cabrera said.

Cabrera has come a long way since her undergraduate days at Avila. But her days at Avila are not completely over. She plans on pursuing her master's in international business when the pageant is over.

"Avila is going to make it very easy to get my master's," Cabrera said.

Cabrera's current roommate, Erica Goeckeritz, also an Avila graduate, is currently taking classes for her master's.

"Erica and I were roommates when we lived on campus," Cabrera said.

said. "She told me such good things about the master's program that I decided to look into it."

Until Cabrera returns to Avila, she is focusing on the pageant and the exciting weeks to come.

"You just never know what life will throw you next," Cabrera said.

"You always plan on one thing and then things change or something else comes up, so I'm going to keep my options open and see what happens. Whatever it is, I'm ready for it."

Steer Dinner

Continued from p.1

fundraising events then they can appreciate the donors more and want to take an active role in giving back."

"It is a fundraiser for students and another way for the faculty and staff to support the students outside of Avila," Brian Moore, director of TRIO programs, said.

The need for student scholarships is almost at a million dollars this year and in order to obtain that goal, the Steer Dinner is a key fundraiser.

Students are an essential part to the Steer Dinner. "I cannot stress enough how important student volunteerism is. We want students to interact with the donors because donors want to know who is benefiting from their donations, it gives the students an opportunity to say thank you, and we want students to become donors when they graduate," Aernie said.

"Steer Dinner is the perfect venue for bringing students together. When students volunteer for the gala, they have the opportunity to meet the very people who make their education possible. It is an exciting evening attended by people who genuinely care about Avila," Thomas F. Gordon, president, said.

Students can get involved by volunteering. Students can be part of a Steer

best thing a student does. Honestly, I think that people remember you if you actually make yourself known. Whether you speak or model an item, you are an important part. People think, 'If Avila has confidence in you then you must be really awesome,'" Thompson said.

Thompson said that student volunteers are just as important to the donors as the actual dinner.

"You never know who could be at the dinner and who could offer you an awesome opportunity."

"I think student volunteerism is an important aspect of the Steer Dinner. By their very presence, student volunteers are a visible sign of Avila's can-do spirit. At the same time, students have an opportunity to see first-hand the community's commitment to Avila," Shaffer said.

The dinner auctions off live and silent items.

"The live auction is very interesting. I've actually purchased two vacations," Moore said. "It is nice to know that the money is going back to Avila."

"No matter what your taste is, there is something for everyone," Shaffer said.

"There are over 44 donors. Our top two donors are Mary Beth Meyers and



Courtesy of Serena Aernie

Student volunteers enjoy an evening with Avila alumni.

Dinner committee, help obtain auction items, be models for some of the items, be networkers and say thank you to the guests, be table runners, help follow up after the auction, come early and decorate, or be student speakers. The dinner offers many ways for students to get active and show support for Avila.

"Donors wanted to see the students and we wanted to give them students," Aernie said.

Another key to the dinner is the student speaker. Last year, graduate Tekia Thompson was one of the student speakers at the dinner.

"Half of the reason I got the job I have now is because my current employer saw me speak. When I went to interview my boss said 'You were the one who spoke at the dinner,'" Thompson said. "Speaking and just being an active volunteer can be the

Bank of America. We get lots of really neat auction items such as trips to all over the world, jewelry, precious art and much more," Aernie said.

"The Steer Dinner is the family wedding that you don't want to miss. It's not just an evening out, it's an evening to remember," Aernie said. For more information contact Serena Aernie at 501-2450 or visit www.Avila.edu.

Student speakers are guests of the event, receive free etiquette lessons, and are required to give a two to three minute speech. Auditions will be held on Feb. 21 between 1-4 p.m. To make an appointment call Serena Aernie at 501-2450.

International Student Spotlight

Toshiaki Sakurai

Kimberly Brim
Staff Writer

Avila's campus is very diverse. The campus is full of students and faculty from all across the United States and around the world. One student from Fugi City, Shizuoka in Japan is Toshiaki Sakurai.

When Sakurai first came to the states, he went to a school in West Virginia, called Davidson Atkins, in an effort to improve his English. He chose an American school because he believes "sciences in the U.S. are best in comparison to other countries." This is a crucial element he will need for his future endeavors.

Currently, Sakurai is seeking a degree in biology and a minor in psychology in hopes of becoming a doctor. When he is finally finished with school he would like to practice medicine in the states for about four years and then go back to Japan.

Practicing medicine however is not the only thing Sakurai wants to return

to Japan for. He has a love and passion for fast cars. One of his favorite movies is *The Fast and the Furious* because of the unique cars.

Between the quick cars and biology homework, Sakurai is often seen taking pictures around campus, not for his own personal collection, but as the historian for GAP, the Group Activities Programming organization. He started taking pictures back in high school because he thought it was interesting. Now it is a hobby he gets recognized for across campus.

Off campus, Sakurai has found a store he has grown to love, as do many Americans. It is none other than Wal-Mart.

"I love Wal-Mart because it is clean and cheap and open all the time," Sakurai said.

He has not done a lot of traveling within the United States but hopes to see more of the country when he is not so committed to school. His only



E. Barnes

Originally from Japan, Toshiaki Sakurai adapts to American life through his involvement in campus related activities.

regret is his being an international student. Because of this he cannot become a member of the National Science Foundation, an organization that could help him greatly.

If you would happen to run into Sakurai at school, do not be afraid to say hi. He enjoys listening to all types of music and chatting with different types of people.

Six students named Academic All-Americans

Dennys Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Four women, two men, five soccer players, one volleyball player; no matter how you spell it out, Avila University is fortunate to have its athletes honored.

For athletes to receive National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Academic All-American recognition, the student-athletes must be of junior status academically, possess a cumulative GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, and excel athletically on the field of competition.

Among the honored were seniors

Lindsay Todd and Angela Long, and junior Erin Phillips, all of the women's soccer team; seniors Nick Baum and Aaron Weaver, both of the men's soccer team, and senior volleyball player Crystal Holt.

Todd graduated in December and Long is finishing up her last semester at Avila with a degree in biology. Phillips is in the nursing program, and is currently working in local hospitals.

"I hope to be back next year to finish school, receive my degree and help my team win a conference title," Phillips said.

This is the first time Baum has been an Academic All-American.

"It is a pleasure to receive this recognition for my hard work in the classroom, but I owe it all to my parents who keep me focused on my future," Baum said.

On the other hand, Weaver is familiar with Academic All-American status. This is the second year he has been nominated. Weaver has not only been honored in the NAIA, but also recognized as Heart of America Conference and regional Academic All-American with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9.

"The most important thing in being successful in both sports and academics is to manage your time right," Weaver said.

"These two gentlemen are not only excellent in academics, they also demonstrate a great deal of leadership on and off the field as captains of the men's soccer team," coach Patrick Phillips said.

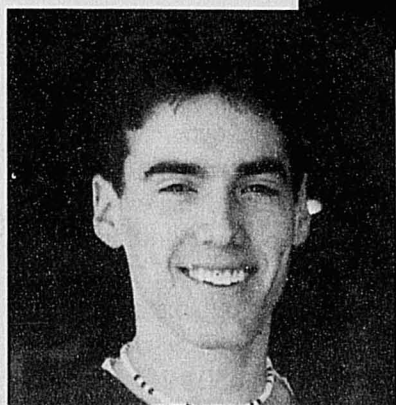
Holt is currently working on receiving a degree in radiology.

"Even though times get tough during the season with my assignments and practice time, I stay focused and continue to work hard on both," Holt said.

Clockwise from left:

Angela Long,
Aaron Weaver,
Crystal Holt,
Lindsay Todd,
Erin Phillips,
Nick Baum

Photos by E. Barnes



Student coaches go from the field to the sidelines

Nicole Sowders
Staff Writer

She stepped off the field knowing this was the last time as a competitive player in her collegiate career. She had spent four years on the soccer field at Avila, and now her eligibility was complete.

Tracy Friedeck graduated last year from Avila. She played women's soccer before becoming an assistant coach in her last year of school. Lately, a number of student athletes are switching into coaching positions and transitioning from friend to coach.

"I felt more at ease with the team because I was friends with them. Plus, there were quite a few freshmen to get to know, and I developed a relationship with them," Friedeck said.

Jinny Chapman graduated in December, and is now going to continue with the softball program she played on for four years.

"I think it's going to be difficult to tell my friends what to do. It's going to provide challenges. I now have to go into the season with a professional standpoint," Chapman said.

Chapman said the only thing that changed was she moved over three feet to the coaching box.

The NAIA allows student athletes four years of competitive play. Avila allows those players who complete their eligibility in four years, but not their degree, to become an assistant coach.

"These students who still need another year to finish school are honoring their scholarship to give back and still be a part of the program,"

Athletic Director Mike Sharpe said.

Women's soccer head coach Paul McNally had two student coaches last season, and feels they were vital to his program.

"The assistant coaches bring intensity and enthusiasm to a training session that might not already be there," McNally said.

Bobby Bass previously played football at Avila, and as a student continues his football career by assistant coaching the football team.

Many coaches at Avila agree the student coaches understand the coaching styles and the player's needs. They feel that this helps build a stronger program.

Student coaches have an opportunity off the field to demonstrate good leadership, yet maintain friendships. Many of the student coaches are in the classroom with and are around the same age as the athletes.

Sophomore linebacker Blair Lillis feels the team has to develop respect for the assistant coaches.

"Off the field they're our peers, but on the field they're our coaches, and we have to learn to accept that respect level," Lillis said.

McNally feels that off the field, student coaches have a positive influence.

"There is a great opportunity for student coaches to play as role models or mentors."

Friedeck's goal for the season was to have everyone get along and respect each other.

Chapman's goal is to eventually take over the women's softball program.

Credit cards companies prey on college students

Phillip Haislip
Staff Writer

College students equal money to credit card companies. Every day students receive several credit card offers in the mail, even though they do not have much income. Credit card debt accounts for \$400 billion or 40 percent of America's national debt, according to AmeriDebt, a non-profit organization which handles debt consolidation.

With good decision-making, Joseph Haimowitz, assistant professor of economics, feels there are ways to reduce or even eliminate debt.

"There is a misconception of the damage caused by not being careful with one's credit history," Haimowitz said.

For those students with loans, car loans and other types of debts that have become too much to handle, there are now places that can help. AmeriDebt is one of many debt consolidation establishments that help their client's pay off their total debt in as little as three to five years.

These organizations total their client's income and divide up what money they can spare among their

debtors sometimes even lowering the amount due.

"I used my credit card all the time. But I rarely pay off my monthly balance," sophomore Tom Gregor said.

According to Haimowitz, that is exactly what credit card companies want.

"These credit card companies offer students with no income cards because they want students to develop a habit. It's like a cigarette company coming to a 14-year-old and saying, 'here have a cigarette.' Why do they do it? Not because they are interested in the happiness of the 14 year old, but because they want someone who will smoke till they are 60," Haimowitz said.

Haimowitz suggests these simple :

- Buy what you need. This way you will not overspend on extras.

- Think about your budget before you buy, and try not to buy at an impulse.

"Unless you owe Uncle Vito, pay off those credit cards first because interest rates on credit cards are above 13 percent," Haimowitz said.

Avila offers a personal finance course which teaches the basic principles of managing ones budget and ways to avoid debt problems.



E. Barnes

Credit card debt accounts for over 40 percent of America's debt.

St. Valentine's Day is the holiday of love

Jessica Collins
Staff Writer

Fresh cut flowers, cards uttering love and luscious chocolates are given on Valentine's Day.

"I thought Valentine's Day was a made-up holiday by Hallmark so they could make lots of cards," freshman Bri Amey said.

Amey is not alone with her thought. However, Hallmark does make and sell millions of cards for this holiday.

When asked who St. Valentine was, many individuals gave a blank look with no answer. In fact, nine out of 10 people who were asked this question responded in this manner. But, one freshman came through.

"St. Valentine was a priest," Shihhao Wang said.

There are many possibilities for the cause of Valentine's Day, but the most common is attributed to St. Valentine. He was beaten to death

with clubs, and then beheaded.

According to *Valentines Day History*, when Emperor Claudius II ruled Rome, it was involved in many wars. Claudius was having a hard time getting soldiers for his army and he believed this was because Roman men did not want to leave their lovers and families. This led Claudius to cancel all marriages and engagements in Rome.

St. Valentine, as well as a few other priests, secretly married couples. For these deeds, he was condemned to death on Feb. 14. In later years, Pope Gelasius set aside Feb. 14 to honor St. Valentine and gradually the day became known as the day for exchanging love sentiments.

Today, Valentine's Day has become very commercialized, and people are spending a lot of money and putting a

lot of efforts in selecting the right gifts.

"Valentine's Day is about what the guy can do for his girl, and not what she can get for him. You should do something for your girl that she won't expect, something unique, but romantic," sophomore Brandon Allen said.

Amey can attest to this notion.

"My boyfriend Nick put Hershey's Kisses on the ground leading to my car door and left a note saying, 'Now that I have kissed the ground you walk on, will you be my Valentine?'" Amey said.

Another woman whose boyfriend planned something for her on Valentine's Day is junior Laura Wilkerson. When she got off work, her boyfriend left a note on her car saying, "Go put nice clothes on and come over to my house." When she

got there, he had made her dinner and rented her favorite movie, *Romeo and Juliet*.

Those individuals who do not have a significant other can still celebrate Valentine's Day. Love can be shared between parents, siblings and even friends.

"My grandma and I used to go to the park and have a picnic lunch on Valentine's Day," sophomore Jill Briscoe said.

From family to significant others, flowers and candy, people share Valentine's Day in many ways. However, worrying over gifts and surprises can become tiresome.

"The most important thing about Valentine's Day is being with someone you love, and this far surpasses any gifts that you may receive," sophomore Massimo Scaccia said.

A Permanent Decision

Jamie Cox
Spread Editor

Once stereotypically associated with sailors and criminals, tattoos are popping up on the skin of people of all ages, races, financial brackets and social backgrounds. It is estimated that more than 20 million Americans possess at least one tattoo, and are just over 4,000 tattoo parlors spread across the country. This is compared to the only 300 in existence 20 years ago which makes tattoo parlors one of the fastest growing retail businesses in America, according to www.ask.com.

"I didn't get a tattoo because it was the 'popular' thing to do though," sophomore Eric Paxton said. "I did it for me. It just seems to be more acceptable now."

Paxton bears an artistic design of his own creation on his left arm. Although he admits to fully appreciating his tattoo today he did have his apprehensions before he entered the tattoo parlor.

"Yeah, I freaked out a bit. It's a big decision, it was going to be on my body for the rest of my life, so I wanted to make sure that my tattoo represented me and that I wasn't going to just get sick of it in a few years."

Tattoos are a big decision, from what type of tattoo is desired to where one should go for their tattoo application, all things should be considered before making the plunge.

To begin with one must be sure that this is the right thing for them. While

there are procedures such as excisional surgery and laser removal to get rid of tattoos, these procedures are much more expensive than the tattoo itself and often not worth the trouble. If still interested think of a tattoo like a term paper and begin researching. Look into the tattoo design desired, colors, size and location on the body. Many tattoo parlors will assist in these decisions,

parlor of choice. Make sure that they are a certified parlor using sterile equipment, gloves, and be sure that they dispose of their needles after they are done with each tattoo.

When the day has finally come for the tattoo there are ways to prepare. To begin with, one must not be under the influence of any alcohol or drugs, including aspirin at the time of their application, as alcohol and aspirin thin the blood and make it difficult for the application to occur.

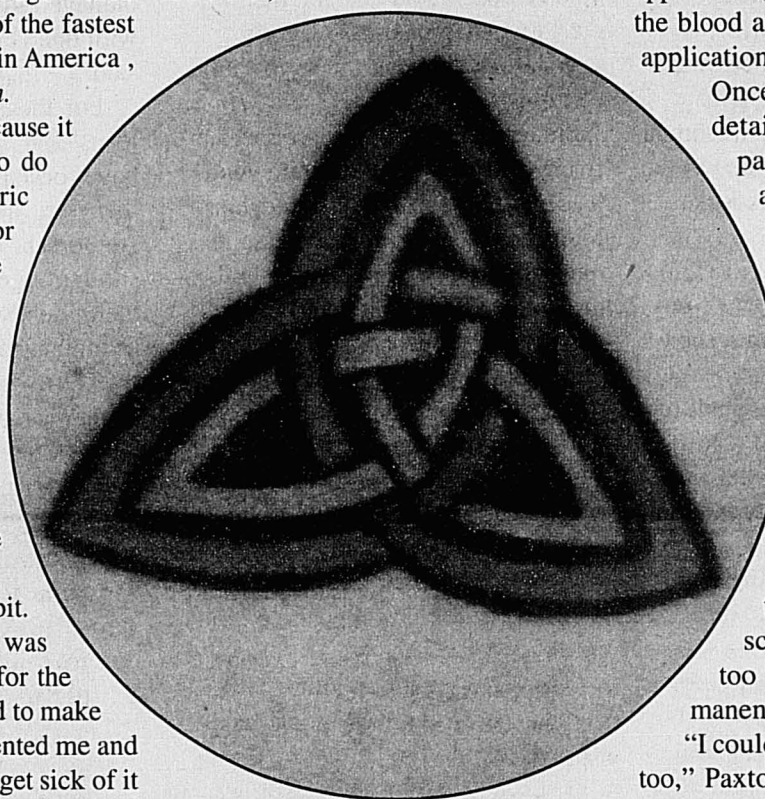
Once the tattoo is on, follow the detailed instructions that the parlor offers on how to keep and clean the new tattoo.

These usually include washing it with mild soap, keeping it moisturized, not picking at the scab that forms over the tattoo and keeping it out of the sun. Sun exposure is the main cause for fading in tattoos.

Within a week or two of the tattoo's application, the scab will fall off and the tattoo will be complete and permanent.

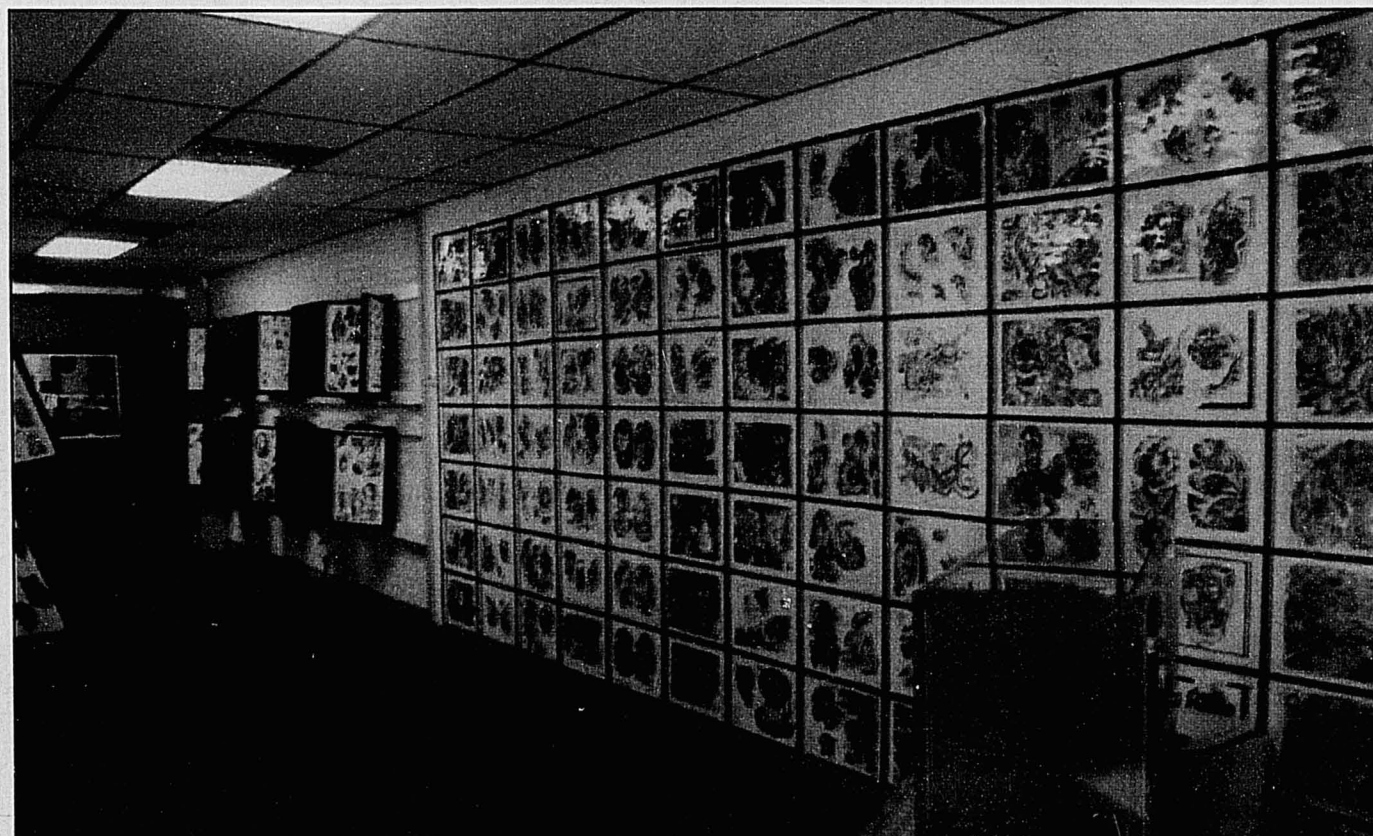
"I couldn't be happier with my tattoo," Paxton said. "Now, I am ready for my next one."

Paxton plans on getting a shamrock on his back in the next few weeks



and it does not cost to go into tattoo parlors and browse for ideas. Parlors can even apply a temporary tattoo for people to wear to test whether or not they are ready for the real thing.

Once it is time for the actual application, be sure to investigate the tattoo



A Temporary Decision

Katie McRoberts

Staff Writer

Same day. While some athletes prepare by loading up on carbs and Gatorade, this athlete pierced her tongue.

Anxiously shifting in her seat, freshman Bri Amey nervously eyed the instruments. Stainless steel forceps and an enormous needle leered at her. As she swished the Listerine around in her mouth, she anticipated the piercer's attack. With swift hands and skilled maneuvers he stretched out her tongue, clamped the forceps, and jabbed the needle through.

"I did it before a soccer game and I was really nervous. I just wanted to make sure I could still eat spaghetti. I felt so relieved because I thought it was going to hurt really bad. I've bit my tongue harder," Amey said.

Amey wanted her piercing so much she did it before an important game, and she is just one among many that have plunged into the piercing age.

According to Blake Schemberger, a tattoo artist at Irezumi Body Art, the demand for piercings has increased in the past several years.

"I doubt that five years ago the person that waited on you at a restaurant had their tongue pierced. Now they do," Schemberger said.

Eight years ago, Schemberger was

the only kid in his high school with his tongue pierced. The driving force behind this need to puncture people's skin remains a bit of a mystery.

According to Irezumi Body Piercer Beth Hart, the media has made a huge impact in piercing choices.

"These kids are watching MTV and see someone with a piercing. So they come in and immediately want to get it," Hart said.

Whether it is the media's influence or simply something your best friend had done last week, people are flocking to penetrate their skin for the sake of something "cool." According to Hart, the most common body parts being pierced are navels, tongues, cartilage, eyebrows, ears and noses.

"Bellybuttons all day. It pays my rent," Hart said.

Other popular piercings are lips, eyebrows, nipples, genitals, through the cheek and bull-style nose rings. Sometimes people will pierce anything that the skin will allow, as long as it appeals to them.

Freshman Zoe Shaffer pierced her navel for several reasons.

"I think they look adorable and it looks good with a bikini."

Other people stick to the simplest of piercings. Senior Bobby Wolfe has

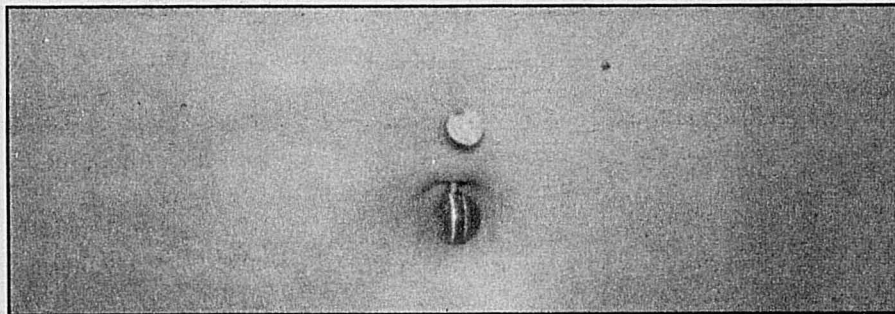
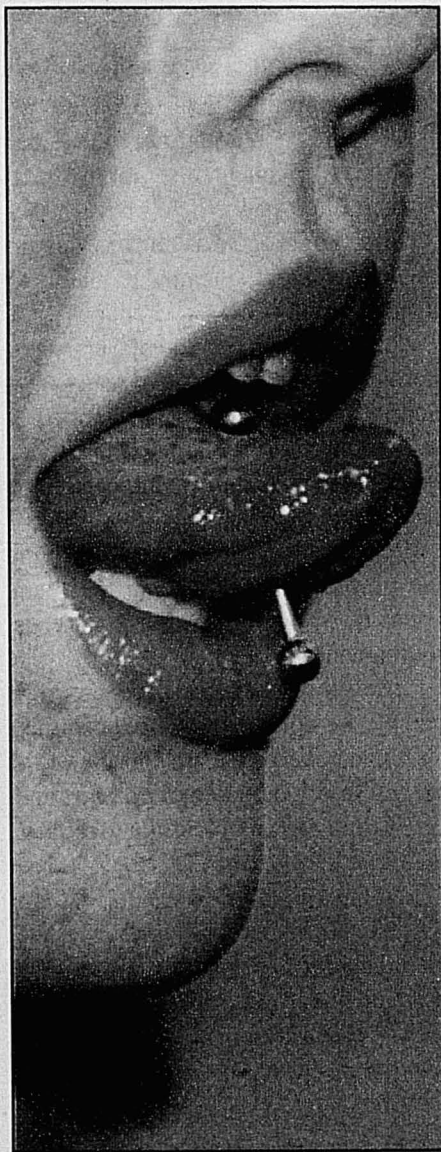
had his left ear pierced since his sophomore year in high school.

"It was in style back then and it's still in style now. I think other piercings go to the extreme these days with noses and stuff like that."

Before deciding on a piercing, certain facts and considerations must be looked at. According to the Association of Professional Piercers, an organization dedicated to critical information about piercings, it is essential that in this age of blood borne diseases people carefully decide who will perform their piercing. Insure that the shop is clean and all materials are properly sterilized. It is also very important to clean and properly maintain a piercing.

"The reason people's piercings get infected is because they don't take care of them. They won't get an infection if it's cared for the way we tell you," Hart said.

After careful research and planning to ensure the best piercing available, begin searching for a shop. Body shops similar to Irezumi are located all over the Kansas City area. For more information on Irezumi Body Art call 816-363-6396.



What do I look for in a professional body piercer?

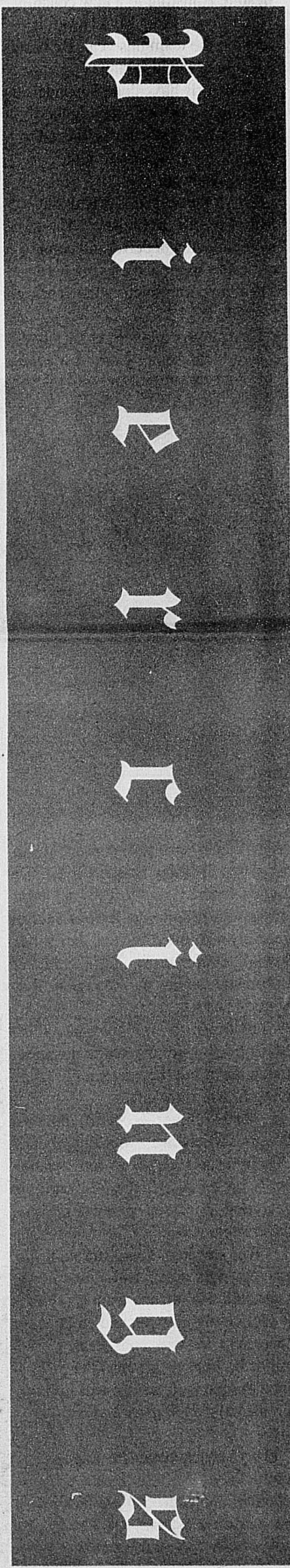
⌘ Hygiene & Safety: Unless a piercer practices clean techniques and uses sterile instruments when performing a body piercing you could get serious infections, including hepatitis and HIV.

⌘ Technique: Ask how the person learned to pierce and how long he or she has been piercing. It takes a lot of practice to learn proper technique. Talk to a other customers to get input on their experience and the healing process of body piercing.

⌘ Ear Piercing Gun: Never let anyone pierce your body with an ear piercing gun. The gun cannot be properly sterilized. This can be very painful and could lead to serious infections and could lead to other problems.

**Helpful Advice
provided by
Irezumi Body Art
Professional Body Piercing**

All photos by E. Barnes



Lady Eagles welcome a new coach

Melisse' Ivey — *Sports Editor*

Pamela Oldes — *Staff Writer*

The Lady Eagles have worked hard despite adjusting to a new coach. Head Coach Greg Mittelsteadt is leading the team this year. He brings success to the program.

"The girls have done a wonderful job coming out and playing hard every night. They have adjusted to me and my style of coaching," Mittelsteadt said.

So far the season is 50/50, but Mittelsteadt is optimistic. "The girls have done a wonderful job coming out every night and playing hard. They have improved as the year went along."

Key players include senior guard Amye Ladd, senior guard Adrienne

Cook, senior guard Angie Mabrie, sophomore guard/forward Rachael Bradberry, junior forward Kayla Thomas and Junior Guard Jenny McCarty.

The team plays Missouri Valley, away tonight, in Marshall, Mo. When they return home, they face a challenge playing against MidAmerica Nazarene on Feb. 15 and William Jewell on Feb. 20, which are at the top of the conference. The women's basketball team is ready for the end of the season, and they are anticipating a good closing.

"If the girls play hard and put their selves in a good position, then we can get a good spot in the conference tournament," Mittelsteadt said. The last home game will be against Benedictine on the Feb. 22.



Junior guard Jenny McCarty penetrates an open lane against the Central Methodist defense on Sat. Jan. 25.

E. Barnes

Avila baseball team prepares for upcoming season

Ryan Cook —

Staff Writer

With a new name and new players, Avila University's baseball team plans for newfound success this 2003 season.

"We have tripled the talent compared to last year's team due to young players gaining past game experience and talented transfers that came in," Head Coach Ryan Howard said.

Howard says the difference between this year's team and teams from previous years is that the players have really taken pride in their own work ethic without the ridicule of the coaches.

"The coaches have really had the time to take more pride in what they do simply because there (are) more coaches," junior infielder Nick Zicarelli said.

Avila has added coaches to the baseball staff in an attempt to lighten the load on Howard and create more of a microscope for the players to work under. This forces players to improve their play for the upcoming

season.

"Both coaches are young. So for the most part, they can relate better to the players. All have coaches have good intensity and a good awareness of the game," freshman infielder Kevin Gray said.

University of Missouri transfer outfielder Kevin Henry pointed out, "The difference between here and MU is that here there less politics and less given to you, which really creates a better attitude. As a team, we really have had to earn everything."

Gray has noticed the good team unity that has been developed in pre-season workouts that he believes will carry over into the season.

"Overall, the team is ten times better than last year's," three-year lettermen Zicarelli said. "This team has the potential to do some great things. We should go deep into (the) conference tournament and could even surprise some teams deeper in the playoffs."

Men's basketball looks to finish the season on a high note

Joel Ross —

Staff Writer

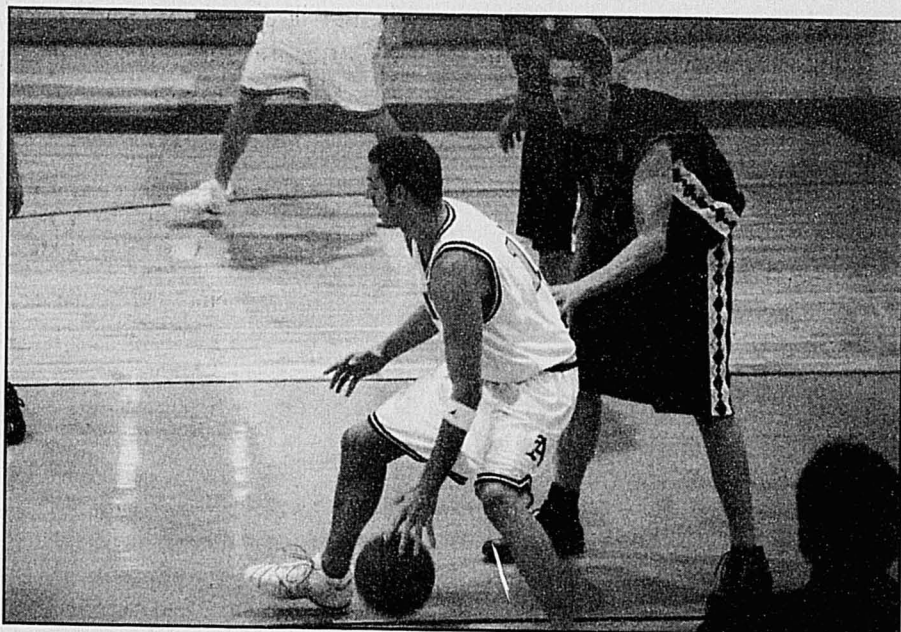
The Eagles' current inconsistent winning patterns may be short-lived. The Eagles record is 11-17. They are struggling. But despite the lack of success recently exhibited by the men's basketball team, many players remain optimistic about the direction their team is headed.

Freshman power forward Chris McConnell said the team possesses much talent but they are simply struggling to win right now.

"Our offense is good, but our defense is lacking," McConnell said. "There is a lack of communication skills on defense and when one guy gets tired or messes up, it can mess up the entire defense."

"We are just going through the motions right now," senior guard Alan Lane said. He said the team is presently lacking the passion and enthusiasm necessary to win consistently. "We might be able to get into the conference tournament, we are still in it, we all need to play fearless and with some fire."

The main problem the Eagles currently face revolves around passion, emotion, and heart that are lacking on the part of many players. The Eagles have of talent in terms of quality play-



Senior Roby Anderson attacks the basket against Central Methodist's Justin Cornell.

E. Barnes

ers. With an increased passion for winning and improved communication skills on defense many Eagles players feel that more positive results are on the horizon.

"We are close to turning it around," senior center Roby Anderson said. "We can turn things around if we play with more confidence and come together as a team. We could be even

more successful next year because we have young talent, juniors that can really play, and time to work on fixing this year's problems."

The wins are not pouring in right now, but the Eagles are gathering the necessary ingredients for more positive results in the near future.

"We are slowly turning things around. We just have not been playing

well together. If we play like we did against Central Methodist College, we have a chance to go farther in the conference tournament," senior forward Nathan Cane said.

Sophomore guard Phillip Haislip relates many of the teams' problems to a lack of experience.

"Many of our current players were not here last year. We have many new additions and we need to play more as a team. We do have players that are hungry, talented, and we are headed in the right direction," Haislip said.

Head coach Nick Totta agrees with the players and insists that the team could do very well in the conference tournament.

"Seven of our top starters are new and we are not playing with the enthusiasm and energy we are capable of. If we can match our talent with heart and work ethic, we can be as dangerous as anybody," Totta said.

"We have a home game on Feb. 15 against Mid-America Nazarene. We would really appreciate the fan support for that game," Totta said. "It is Hall of Fame Night, an important conference game, and it would be nice to draw as many fans as possible."

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Adrianne Renee Cook

Jeremiah Miles

Features Editor

Not many Lady Eagles have the honor of scoring 21 points in one game. Many have scored 21 points in a game, but not from shooting 3-point shots. Only two have done it and senior Adrianne Cook is one of Avila University's record holders.

Former head coach Jim McMurray recruited Cook from Drexel R-4, in



Courtesy of Adrianne Cook

Drexel, Mo. McMurray, as well as Drexel's close distance to Kansas City, are the primary reasons Cook enrolled at Avila. She is majoring in business with a minor in psychology.

Cook has played basketball four years; it pays for her schooling. She also plays for her love of the sport, the women on the team and the environment both create. As a freshman, one player became a role model for her.

"Keri Donnell was a senior when I started. She was a hard worker and treated everyone well, even us freshmen. When she graduated from Avila, she still came back during the summer and practiced with the team. It showed me what kind of person she really was," Cook said.

Beginning her sophomore year, Cook was thrust into a leadership role and has been captain for the last three seasons. At first she felt out of place due to being a leader for upper classmen, but gradually accepted her responsibility. It gives her the opportunity to lead others, which she enjoys.

"I do not mind being asked ques-

tions from other team members. I enjoy being a leader, so when the girls come to me with questions, I feel they respect me in my role and as a person," Cook said.

The hardest part of being a role model she has come across is being honest.

"Sometimes honesty can hurt the feelings of other players, but as a team, we owe it to ourselves to be realistic in certain situations," Cook said.

Through every season, the atmosphere has been very different. From new players to new coaches, Cook has kept an open mind, and knows that each season is different.

The team's win/loss record has remained fairly even throughout the season, but Cook is optimistic. The Lady Eagles have played every team in the conference. She believes they can beat every team.

While it has not sunk in this is her last season as a Lady Eagle, she does not think it will be hard to accept. She has no regrets and has enjoyed every second of the game. Cook knows her time is almost up, but new

opportunities are on the horizon.

"I will miss my teammates the most and the games too; playing in them, not practicing for them," Cook said.

While times can get tough balancing schoolwork and athletics, two people have made it a lot easier, her parents.

"My parents have made it very easy for me. Every single game of every single season, home and away, I can proudly say both of my parents were sitting in the stands supporting me. It was not just my mom or just my dad. They were there together and it means a lot to me," Cook said.

While she is uncertain what her future holds, Cook would like to pursue a career in marketing. She is glad she chose Avila College in the beginning and glad she is leaving Avila University in the end.

Her advice to undergraduates is to stick with it. It all is worth it in the long run. She also warns them though.

"Do not let your sport consume you. While it will be helpful to you in your future, academics will carry you further," Cook said.

Softball team begins morning practice

Andy Ohmes

Staff Writer

The Avila softball team is practicing once again in preparation for another winning season. Players reported to practice on Monday, Jan. 13 at 6 a.m. at the Old Ballgame training facility located in Martin City, Mo.

"I'm a morning person and I feel fresh and then we have the rest of the day to do whatever," sophomore transfer pitcher and outfielder Ashley Vogt said.

The softball team lost five starters and a lot of offense from last year that helped the team to an overall record of 32-25. This included a major tournament victory over Northwest Missouri State University in Jefferson City, Mo.

"Our conference is always tough and Lindenwood and Evangel are always nationally ranked," Head Coach Steve Keel said.

Returning seniors include Cindy

Thomas, Emilie Pierson, Megan Palcher and Tobi Gill.

"Most of our teams leadership is coming from Tobi Gill," Keel said.

Key Juniors include Amanda Brock, Tricia Francy, Angie Holland, and newcomer Vanessa Lewis. Sophomore Ashley Vogt will see time in the outfield and on the mound, whereas sophomore Kelly Newberry will start at shortstop. Freshmen include Ashley Bourscheski, Megan Spellman and redshirt Amy Waltrip.

"The teams goals are to improve all of our skills and continue to have a winning record," Vogt said.

The countdown to the first pitch, which will take place in Tennessee at the end of February, has begun. The softball team is practicing and striving towards another winning season.

"We have a lot of well rounded athletes and should be strong all around," Francy said.

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Tango scene warms up winter in K.C.

Shannon D. Peery
Staff Writer

On a cold Sunday night in Westport, Beau Bledsoe transforms a room inside the Westport Presbyterian Church into an Argentine festival. He is a tango musician and disc jockey for the night's activities. Christmas lights are strung on the columns lining the room. Tablecloths of different colors are spread. Candles are placed and lit on the tables.

The tango dance scene has been growing in town. The website www.kctango.org says, "You've reached the home of Kansas City Tango where a thriving community of performers, dancers and artists have helped evolve the Argentine Tango art form into its own version of Buenos Aires' wonderful sub-culture."

Each week tango classes take place in Kansas City. Local dance companies City in Motion, Louis & Co., and the Toi Shaw-Kansas City Swing

Club teach tango.

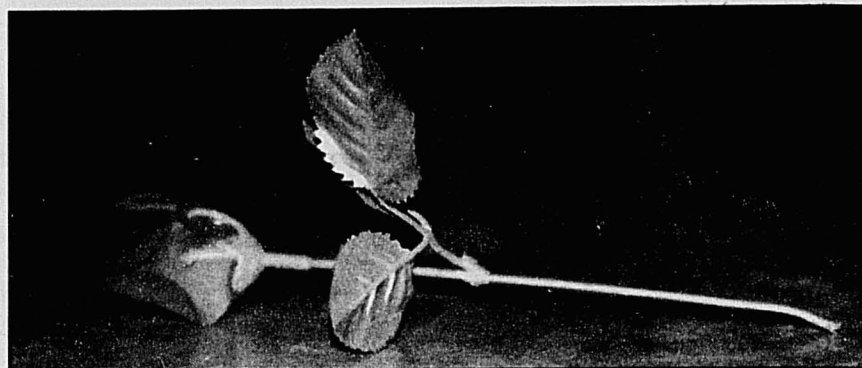
Many tango events are on the horizon, including The Toi Shaw Valentine's Tango Ball, which will be held at Drexel Hall, 3301 Baltimore on Feb. 15.

The Plaza restaurant 210 at Fedora's on the Plaza features live tango music and a dance lesson every Wednesday night for free. Kansas City's premiere tango orchestra, Tango Lorca, plays every week. They just released their first album, *Mujer Sola* on February 8.

The dance floor is filled with people ranging in ages from 18 to 60.

"Tango is like jazz, an improv dance. No set steps. It's simple and complicated. If you can walk you can tango," Susan Lawrence, a regular who has been dancing for three years, said. "It is like dancing with the earth, your partner, and the music."

Korey Ireland is a professional musician and part-time tango instruc-



E. Barnes

The Latin dance the Tango makes its way into Kansas City clubs.

tor, who leads the lessons on Sunday nights at the church.

"It is an experience that is an art form, a party, and a relationship all in three minutes," Ireland said. He teaches from a social dancer's perspective.

"It is an incredible rush that can be exciting, satisfying, intimate, playful and dramatic," Ireland said.

Tango began in brothels in the 1880s but grew to be widely accepted

in Argentina by the 1930's. It quickly spread to the centers of culture in Europe. The word itself means a place to dance and play. Tango is described by Dr. O. Sergio Suppa of Buenos Aires as "The writing of a prologue to a love story that was soon to follow."

For more information about tango, visit www.kodair.com.

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Book Review

Ash Wednesday by Ethan Hawke

Jinni Pike

Staff Writer

"I understood and had come to terms with the fact that our destiny was to break each other's hearts, to destroy each other." Quiet observations, like this one made by the character Christy Walker, make author (yes, author) Ethan Hawke's novel, *Ash Wednesday*, remarkable proof that there are brilliant thoughts in the mind of the man better known for his acting.

This is the second book from Hawke, who is recognized from such movies as *Dead Poet's Society*, *Gattaca*, and the recent, *Training Day*, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for best supporting actor. Hawke's first book, *The Hottest State*, merely dipped into the conversational thoughtfulness to which *Ash Wednesday* elaborates.

Jimmy Heartstock is an immature, fast-minded, self-declared womanizer who enlisted in the Army after his psychopathic father committed suicide. His girlfriend of a year and a half, Christy, is a skinny, sovereign woman who has a knack for picking out the simple truths in life and is never happy sitting still. When Jimmy ends his relationship with Christy she sets out on a bus from

Albany, N.Y. to Austin. Christy is secretly four months pregnant with Jimmy's child and looking for a home she left eight years ago. Jimmy, realizing his mistake of leaving the only girl he has ever loved, goes AWOL from the Army, following her bus across the country, hell-bent on making her his wife. From there, Jimmy and Christy discover that life is not as mystic as they thought and find out things about love, marriage and life that readers can cling to and relate on their own.

Publisher's Weekly called *Ash Wednesday* a "...worthwhile tale and an honest one, sufficient to make most readers look forward to Hawke's next."

Hawke wrote the book in dual first person narrative alternating between the minds of his two protagonists. The fantastic feature of this novel is that the characters are so real. Sometimes readers will despise them, question everything they say and believe the couple do not deserve happiness, but a thought or action of one of the two will remind the reader that these two are astonishingly human. In the end, the reader will root for love to conquer fear.

Film Review

Shanghai Knights ★★★

Starring Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson,
Fann Wong, Aiden Gillen

Rachel Murphy

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Sequels suck. That is the general rule of thumb for big budget sequels hoping to cash in on a blockbuster action movie. Somehow, though, *Shanghai Knights*, the sequel to 2000's *Shanghai Noon*, manages to escape the curse, proving to be fun, if not thought-provoking.

The plot is familiar. Chon Wang, (Chan) has received news that his father has been murdered. He immediately goes to collect his part of the fortune that he and his partner, Roy O'Bannon (Wilson) had liberated during *Shanghai Noon*. After finding that the fortune has been squandered, the pair set off to London by any means possible in pursuit of Wang's father's killer.

In the process, they come across Wang's sister, Chon Lin, (Fann Wong), already hot on the trail of the killer. The attraction between O'Bannon and Lin is immediate, providing added tension between the best friends.

But enough about the plot. Anytime that Chan and Wilson are together, humor and action are the key points of interest. The indestructible Chan is

at his finest here: fast, funny and all the time paying homage to the legends of the screen that he himself idolizes—Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.

At one point, the dulcet tones of *Singin' in the Rain* swell beneath a fight sequence using umbrellas as the weapons. The sequence accents how tenuous the balance between fighting and dancing really is.

Wilson, for his part, plays the perfect comic foil. His laid-back delivery is the perfect accent to Chan's hyperactivity. He can turn a straight line into something bizarrely funny just by the inflection of his voice. He gives the character of O'Bannon the much-needed vulnerability that most comedic performances lack.

The villain, Rathbone, (Aiden Gillen) is rather cheesy and is one of the only low points of the film. His delivery constantly sounds like a caricature of better British actors. This dull spot in the film is overlooked by the rest of the film's quality.

In the midst of Oscar season, it is nice to see a movie that intends to be just for fun and accomplishes its goal.

Career Month

Thursday, Feb. 20

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Gina Frigault, Avila University Career Services Director

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Staff Editorial: There are no second chances

Becca Schunck
Opinions Editor

Tattoos are a trend that began decades ago, and were mostly adorned by men serving time in the Navy. Today, tattoos can be seen on many Americans in their late teens and 20s. The growing trend among this age group, while popular now, may have some serious penalties. Some of the immediate results in marking one's body with permanent ink may be medical, such as allergies or infection. However, it is the long term social consequences that should be of greatest concern.

Many people decide to adorn themselves with a tattoo after a night of alcohol consumption, or on a whim with friends, and others...just because they want one. This is a potentially dangerous decision considering the fact that tattoos are permanent. Living with a tattoo that a

person no longer finds aesthetically pleasing or that no longer holds special meaning is a serious consequence to face because of a decision made with little forethought or deliberation.

Tattoos have also been a trend that waxes and wanes over the years, and for the most part still carries with it a social stigma that sends a message of self-destruction, rebellion or lack of respect for authority.

While a person's reasoning behind getting a tattoo may be at the opposite end of that social spectrum, one might still be judged on the fact that he or she has a tattoo. One may never get the chance to explain the tattoo's significance or his or her position on body art. The kind of judgment that is often passed on those with tattoos might hold them back in the often conservative corporate world, or prevent them from being accepted in certain social settings.

Some might believe that the new technology of laser removal means

that they can get a tattoo and just have it removed if they no longer like it. This could not be further from the truth. Laser removal is not only a reportedly extremely painful procedure, but often can cause scarring, and leave the markings of the tattoo minus the color. In addition, some colors of ink, such as reds, oranges, and blacks, of ink are difficult, if not impossible to remove.

Though the trend of getting a tattoo is very popular today, one should consider the long-term consequences of permanently marking one's body. Tattoos to some are very special pieces of art with significance. To others a tattoo might be a mistake they cannot fix.

Before deciding to get a tattoo a person should consider that it is a decision he or she will have to live with forever, and there are no second chances.

Proposition pot comes up for vote

Becca Schunck
Opinions Editor

On April 8, the residents of Columbia, Mo. will vote on a measure titled Proposition 1. According to *The Kansas City Star's* article, "Columbia will vote on pot law," published on Jan. 24., this law will in essence decriminalize the use of marijuana, meaning that those with specific medical conditions will be allowed to use marijuana for medicinal purposes. However, this bill will also reduce penalties for anyone possessing marijuana illegally. The article continues, saying that anyone

charged with illegal possession of marijuana will face charges in municipal court rather than state court. What this means to those charged with illegal possession of marijuana is that they will not face any jail time as a result of the crime, but instead will only face a fine as small as \$25. The *Jefferson City News Tribune* stated, in the article "Student initiative puts softer marijuana penalties before columbia voters," published on Jan. 25 that some repeat offenders would not only continue to escape jail time, but would only face fines of approximately \$500.

This bill not only allows those who

illegally possess marijuana to escape any consequences other than financial, it also keeps them from facing the potential loss of federal financial aid. *The Kansas City Star* article stated that under current law anyone who applies for financial aid who has previous drug convictions will not be eligible for federal financial support. Proposition 1 would prevent current or potential students from facing these consequences because the loss of financial aid is mandated by state court where offenders would no longer be required to appear.

Campus Talk

How do you feel about the students at the University of Missouri proposing a bill that would reduce (decriminalize) charges of possession of marijuana to a fine that would not only keep the offender out of jail, but also keep financial aid intact for students?



"I think it's wrong. I think that if it is any harder drugs than marijuana then students should not get financial aid. Marijuana doesn't have that many side effects."

Danielle Storck, Freshman



"As far as the students go I think...that if they are going to have a law for marijuana use to be illegal then they need to enforce it, and that means everybody, and especially people that age. If they reduce these laws then it is just going to let people get away with it more and more."

Jamie Green, Sophomore



"I think it is a very good idea because I don't think that marijuana is that big of a drug. Alcohol is more harmful than marijuana with people out there drinking and driving and stuff like that, so I think it is a good bill."

Joe Baker, Freshman

"I'm against lessening penalties for people who are caught with marijuana. I think that jail time or probation is good. Basically, I am not for lessening penalties whether it be for possession or use [of marijuana]."

Jamie Conover, Sophomore



"I don't agree with it because for one what makes Columbia [students] any more special than any other student that would be caught with marijuana as well, and also if you know you could lose your financial aid you should be concentrating on succeeding in school. If you are going to do it be smart about it."

Shabonne Webb, Freshman



"Well I don't agree with that because they should not have marijuana around, and if you are going to do it you shouldn't get caught with it. Because people really need financial aid."

Royce Jackson, Sophomore

Is there a topic that matters to you? Do you have a question you want answered or a comment about something happening at Avila? We want to know! E-mail the Opinions Editor at beccas43@hotmail.com.

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